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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
IN REPLY REFER TO:

7330-7/1700A3

Honorable Ralph Hall
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hall:

This is in reply to your letter of February 11, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of several of your constituents regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice, therefore, to solicit comment from all interested persons on a wide variety of proposals designed to increase channel capacity, to promote more efficient use of these channels, and to simplify the rules governing use of these channels.

The proposals in the Notice reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the Notice, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. To this end, some of the critical issues that must be resolved relate to channel spacing, the amount of time provided to users to convert to new technical standards, how the 300 to 500 percent increase in channel capacity should be licensed, how the rules should be written to provide users technical flexibility, and whether the current nineteen radio services should be consolidated and, if so, how. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the Notice that describes the numerous proposals.

Your constituents are specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

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List A B C D E

Honorable Ralph Hall

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We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your constituents' concerns will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Comments on the proposals set forth in the Notice are due May 28, 1993, and Reply Comments are due July 14, 1993. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994. We urge your constituents to file formal comments on all aspects of the proposals.

Sincerely,



Ralph A. Haller
Chief, Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures:
Notice
Order
Discussion paper

cc:
Chief, PRBureau
Chief, LM&MDivison
Docket Files, Room 222
P&P Branch File (Pink)

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Congressional

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LETTER REPORT

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TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Congressman	Ralph Hall	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
several	inq. comments on PR Docket 92-235

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
PRB/Lmm 5-17-93			
DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
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REMARKS:

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THE HONORABLE
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FILE

RALPH M. HALL
4TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4304

February 11, 1993

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
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HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND FINANCE

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEES:
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SCIENCE

PRB
92-235
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FEB 17 3 43 PM '93
PRIVATE

Hon James H. Quello
Acting Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Over the last several weeks I have spoken with, or received letters from, a number of my constituents concerning the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking 92-235. As I understand it, the goal of NPRM 92-235 is the reallocation of radio frequency spectrum to accommodate increased use by emerging communications technologies like cellular and Personal Communications Systems.

The constituents I have spoken with are concerned that this rearrangement of spectrum will cause new and uncertain difficulties for radio-controlled aircraft enthusiasts. As you know, thousands of hobbyists use the 72-76 MHz band in conjunction with land mobile services, and this appears to be one of the bands under consideration for reallocation by the Commission. Radio-controlled aircraft enthusiasts fear that the proposed reallocation will result in interference problems -- ultimately leading to control problems with their model airplanes.

I understand and appreciate the importance of locating spectrum for emerging technologies, and I support legislation which would make 200 MHz of federal government spectrum available for this purpose. It's important, however, that the FCC strive to protect incumbent users of the spectrum during its deliberations. I sincerely hope the Commission will be able to accommodate these concerns in what will surely be a complex and difficult debate.

Please let me know if I can ever be of assistance. Thanking you for your consideration in this matter, I am

Sincerely,



Ralph M. Hall
Member of Congress

RMH:mee

Enclosures

Please reply to:

☐ 2236 RAYBURN HOB
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(903) 597-0726 FAX

The Honorable Ralph Hall
2236 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 29 1993

Dear Mr Hall

I am a retired member of the USAF and the defense industry. Over the past 30 plus years I have derived many hours of enjoyment and pleasure from building and operating (flying) radio controlled airplanes. I am currently an active member of the E-systems radio control club (ESRC). Our collective pleasure is to continue building and flying radio controlled aircraft without radio interference that would jeopardize the flying safety aspect of this great sport.

I am concerned about proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72-76 MHZ band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies and cause interference to radio control operations. I am told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently available for radio control of model airplanes, only 19 frequencies will be left if these new rules are adopted.

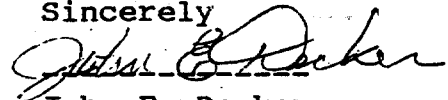
When we fly our model airplanes under radio control, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly decreased.

Please understand that many model airplanes have wing spans up to 10 feet and weigh as much as 30 or 40 pounds. The models themselves are expensive to build; but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We often fly our models at organized events and contests where hundreds of operators participate. We need the use of our full complement of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment.

I do not think it is wise of the FCC to seek to improve the operating conditions of land mobile radio users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radios, but we have considerable investment in our models and in our radio equipment. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to thousands of people like myself and contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry.

Please help me continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72-76 MHZ bans.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John E. Decker", written over a horizontal line.

John E. Decker
5508 Lynn St
Greenville, Texas 75402

FEBUARY 1,1993

TO: The Honorable Ralph M. Hall
2236 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-4304

FROM: Warren C. Browning
215 E. Rowe
Longview, Texas 75601

Dear Senator Hall,

I am a model aviator that is active in a local flying club whose members enjoy constructing and operating radio controlled airplanes and helicopters.

I am very concerned about proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commision (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72- 76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies are presently far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. Under the present FCC rules there is one commercial frequency between each of the frequencies that we use to control our aircraft. Under the proposed FCC rules, there will be four new frequencies added.

The technical specifications for the new equipment allows a legal frequency tolerance that could place the land mobile frequency signal directly on our operating frequency signal. In addition to this, mobile radio transmitters have almost four times the power output as the transmitters that we use to control our aircraft. These two conditions, both indiviually and collectively can and ultimitly will create interference on the frequencies that we use. When this happens, control of the aircraft being operated will be lost. This will create an immediate safety hazard, and endanger life, health, and property.

Safety within the sport and hobby of model aviation is given the highest priority over every other aspect of the industry. We are constantly striving to improve and implement the safety rules and regulations which have made this sport and hobby as safe as it is today. This is one of the main reasons why I am so concerned about the grave consequences that will arise if the proposed FCC rules are passed and implemented.

If the proposed FCC rules are passed and implemented, 31 of the 50 designated frequencies in the 72 MHz band, and 10 of the 30 designated frequencies in the 75 MHz band will be deemed unsafe for use by the radio controlled model industry.

This action will have a severe, detrimental economic impact on both individuals like myself, and the radio controlled model industry as a whole.

I personally have three pieces of radio equipment valued at 750 Dollars that would be made useless and would have to be replaced at a much higher cost if the proposed frequency assignment is adopted. The hobby of radio controlled models consists of several tens of thousands of individuals. Most of us have a minimum of a Thousand Dollars invested in the tools and equipment that we use to build and operate our models.

The infrastructure of the radio controlled model industry that supports our hobby is a Multi- Million Dollar industry. It consists of manufacturers, suppliers, shippers, wholesalers, and retailers. Each part will be economically impacted in a detrimental way should the proposed frequency assignments be adopted. This will ultimately cause the unemployment of several thousand people, and cause several thousand retailers to go bankrupt or close their business.

In conclusion, please help work with myself and the Tens of Thousands of other individuals and businesses to save a Fifty-Year Tradition, Thousands of jobs, and the Millions of Dollars of Revenue that help run this country. Help us get PR Docket 92-235 Parts 88 and 95 Amended.

Sincerely,

Warren C. Browning

February 1, 1993

Honorable Ralph M. Hall
2236 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515-4304

Subject: FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM-PR)
DOCKET 92-235 comment period ends Feb 26, 1993

I don't want to be a victim of crashing my radio-controlled aircraft worth over \$1200 because the FCC permitted an industrial user to switch on a device on a frequency overlapping our FCC assigned frequencies! This could be repeated thousands of times a year across the country with untold repercussions on the public welfare.

The proposed FCC changes would permit industrial transmitters to be operated at a separation of only 2.5 KHz from our American Modelers Association allocated frequencies for Model Aircraft and Boats. Further the proposed transmitters would be allowed to operate at a power level four times higher than our equipment (brand new equipment has now been purchased and/or converted to a narrow band pass suitable for SAFE operation in the frequencies the FCC has just allocated to us, which uses a 20 KHz separation for SAFETY. This required conversion and purchase of new equipment by virtually all of the over 300,000 members of the AMA!)

This is a gross and unsafe allocation of frequencies.

While R/C flying is considered a hobby, the economic impact of this ill advised allocation would be tremendous in both dollars and public safety. It would place assignment of higher power equipment virtually on top of ours would make our operations unsafe and would obsolete millions of dollars of equipment just purchased and/or converted to meet the FCC specs which were awarded to out operations.

The FCC has been derelict in its assignment of industrial frequencies over the last several years, virtually wiping out our operations over a large section of the country for selected frequencies which coincide with industrial crane operation, which industrial users blatantly used our frequency assignments without permission or FCC approval and the FCC FAILED TO ACT TO RESTRICT such operation!

NOW, the FCC is, by this act, DOCKET 92-235, to again VIOLATE our frequency assignment by placing high powered industrial operators virtually on top of our frequencies!

I am a retired engineer who pursues Model Aircraft flying actively. I fly in competition events in a three state area on almost every weekend in the spring and fall. Summer events include events such as the Nationals and the NSRCA Pan American Contest with entrants from

many countries. I attend several events such as the Tournament of Champions in Las Vegas, and plan to attend the Maderas Air Races in California this year, plus many local and nearby fun flying events.

I purchase a \$40,000 RV to attend these events from the east coast to the pacific northwest and it gets a lot of miles put on it.

I own 11 transmitters and receivers meeting FCC specifications. These radios list for \$150 to \$1150 each which represents an investment of \$5,000 approximately in radio gear alone.

The aircraft I fly range from advanced high tech fiberglass fuselage acrobatic pattern aircraft costing from \$900 to \$1200 each to electric powered soaring gliders which average around \$300 each.

The modern model aircraft such as the pattern aircraft described above operate at speeds of from 100 to 120 miles per hour and weigh eight to ten pounds. The kinetic energy of these aircraft make it imperative that our present SAFE frequency allocations be maintained and that the DOCKET 92-235 NOT BE IMPLEMENTED as it stands.


My investment in aircraft and assorted electronics to support them probably totals over \$12,000 not counting the RV and thousands of dollars spent on gas and food to attend all the competition events each year.

The flying locations utilized are mostly PUBLIC facilities, parks, and sites located near city facilities. Our club is presently developing a park adjacent to an industrial center and a highly traveled loop around the city.

THIS FREQUENCY ALLOCATION PROPOSED MAKES ALL THESE ACTIVITIES UNSAFE! An unknown industrial user under this proposed allocation, can destroy the air safety which our operations have long sought to achieve.

Our organization, AMA, works diligently with the FCC to assure that a reasonable and SAFE frequency allocation is achieved.

PLEASE ASSURE THAT THIS PROPOSAL DOESN'T SCRAP ALL THE WORK GOING IN TO THE PRESENT FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS AND MAKE GROSSLY UNSAFE THE WHOLE RADIO CONTROLLED AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY ALONG WITH THE INVESTMENT OF OVER A THIRD OF A MILLION USERS!


Dale C. House, P.E.
1434 Tanglewood Dr.W.
Lindale, TX 75771

cc:FCC, AMA, Sen.Phil Gramm, Ralph Hall

*Thanks for your assistance in this FCC
matter* 